

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 1, 13, 14 and 17-20 as follows:

1 1. (currently amended) A variable color filter for linear fluorescent
2 lamps comprising:
3 a color tube supporting a plurality of colored filter strips each
4 disposed longitudinally along said color tube and in circumferentially adjacent
5 relationship to each other, said color tube supported for rotation about a lamp tube
6 ~~in said housing~~;
7 a motor for rotating said color tube;
8 a mask defining an aperture for limiting emission of light filtered by
9 only a circumferential portion of said color tube; and
10 control means operatively connected to said motor for selectively
11 positioning said color tube in relation to said aperture thereby to achieve a desired
12 coloring of light emitted by the lamp tube.

1 2. (original) The variable filter of claim 1 wherein said mask is
2 interposed between said color tube and the said lamp tube.

1 3. (original) The variable filter of claim 1 wherein said mask is
2 positioned exteriorly to said color tube.

1 4. (original) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein said filter
2 strips are of even width with each other.

1 5. (original) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein said filter
2 strips are each of a single color.

1 6. (original) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein one or more
2 of said filter strips are of varying color density across a strip width.

1 7. (original) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 of said strips is substantially opaque to transmission of light.

1 8. (original) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 of said strips is substantially clear.

1 9. (original) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein said filter
2 strips comprise a substantially opaque strip, a substantially clear strip and one or
3 more colored strips.

1 10. (original) The variable color filter of claim 9 wherein said one
2 or more colored strips comprise a yellow filter strip and a blue filter strip.

1 11. (original) The variable color filter of claim 10 wherein said
2 yellow filter strips are of graduated density.

1 12. (original) The variable color filter of claim 11 wherein said
2 yellow filter strip and said blue filter strip are each of increasing density towards
3 said substantially opaque strip.

1 13. (currently amended) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein
2 said filter strips are affixed to said color tube with an adhesive.

1 14. (currently amended) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein
2 said filter strips are secured to said color tube by a shrunk wrapper.

1 15. (original) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein said filter
2 strips are gel filter strips.

1 16. (original) The variable color filter of claim 1 wherein said filter
2 strips are dichroic filter strips.

1 17. (currently amended) The variable filter of claim 1 wherein said
2 filter strips are printed onto a surface of said color tube.

1 18. (currently amended) The variable filter of claim 1 further
2 comprising an ultra violet filter interposed between said filter strips and the said
3 lamp tube in said color tube.

1 19. (currently amended) A variable color filter for linear fluorescent
2 lamps comprising:

3 a color tube supported for rotation about a lamp tube;
4 a motor for rotating said color tube;
5 a plurality of colored filter strips each disposed longitudinally along
6 said color tube and in circumferentially adjacent relationship to each other, said filter
7 strips including ~~comprising~~ a substantially opaque strip, a substantially clear strip,
8 a yellow strip and a blue strip;

9 a mask defining an aperture for limiting light emission to light filtered
10 by only a circumferential portion of said color tube and colored by one or more of
11 said strips on said circumferential portion; and

12 control means operatively connected to said motor for selectively
13 positioning said color tube in relation to said aperture, thereby to achieve a desired
14 coloring of light emitted through said aperture by said lamp.

1 20. (currently amended) The variable color filter of claim 19 ~~20~~
2 wherein said control means are operative for rotating said color tube from said clear
3 to said opaque and then to said clear at a relatively slow rate not readily perceptible
4 to a human observer thereby to achieve slow changes in illumination suggestive of

5 nightfall and daybreak between color tube positions corresponding to uncolored
6 illumination and darkness.

1 21. (original) A method for simulating daybreak and nightfall
2 ambient illumination comprising the steps of providing a linear fluorescent lamp
3 including a lamp tube, providing a lamp aperture for emitting light from said lamp
4 tube into an illuminated environment, and filtering light emitted through said
5 aperture through changing filter media of color suggestive of nightfall and daybreak
6 respectively between blocked and unfiltered conditions of the emitted light.

1 22. (original) The method of claim 21 further comprising an
2 electronic dimming control connected for controlling light output of said lamp tube
3 in coordination with said changing filter media.

1 23. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein said step of filtering
2 light comprises selectively rotating a plurality of light filters including a substantially
3 clear filter, a substantially opaque filter, a yellow filter and a blue filter.

1 24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said yellow filter and
2 said blue filter are each interposed between said clear filter and said opaque filter.

1 25. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein said yellow filter and
2 said blue filter are each of increasing density from said clear filter towards said
3 substantially opaque filter.

1 26. (original) A mechanically dimmable linear fluorescent lamp
2 comprising:
3 a light fixture including a fluorescent lamp tube;

4 a dimming tube supported for rotation about said lamp tube, said
5 dimming tube having a clear circumferential area and an opaque circumferential
6 area; and
7 a mask defining an aperture for limiting emission of light filtered by
8 only a circumferential portion of said dimming tube.

1 27. (original) The continuously dimmable linear fluorescent lamp
2 of claim 26 further comprising a motor for rotating said dimming tube relative to
3 said mask.

1 28. (original) The continuously dimmable linear fluorescent lamp
2 of claim 27 further comprising control means operatively connected to said motor
3 for selectively positioning said dimming tube in relation to said aperture thereby to
4 achieve a desired level of illumination by the lamp.